

A second and cheaper edition of Rev. Charles King-ley's *Hyppatia; or, New Foes with an Old Face*, has just been issued by Crosby, Nichols & Co. This volume presents a picture of life in the fifteenth century, in its social and spiritual aspects, although the author states that he has presented the church's case far more weakly, as respects her sins, than the facts deserve. There are thrilling passages in this fictitious history, which bring to mind the pages of "Alton Locke."

Evening Hours with my Children; or, Conversations on the Gospel Story, published by R. Carter & Brothers, is a thin quarto, with broad margins and large type, such as children know well how to appreciate. It has twelve large and striking pictures, illustrating scenes in the life of Christ, which are made the subject of lesson-conversations between a mother and her children. It is admirably adapted for reading in the nursery.

Peter Parley, that most famous charmer of children, has returned from his travels in time to wish all his young friends a happy New Year, but we can assure him that his readers will not with a budget of new stories as good as those he used to tell us in days of old, and a portfolio of new pictures, the like of which he has never shown before. Then, to cover the whole, the Messrs. Appleton, from their treasure-house of beautiful things, have brought out some pretty fancy binders, ornamented in quite a new style, that will make young eyes glisten with delight. One of these books, *The Wanderers by Sea and Land*, tells the adventures of "Ike Izzy and I," over the sea, and its pictures show some of the sights of Paris. *Faggots for the Fireside* is an assortment of prose and verse, fact and fancy. So is the *Winter Wreath of Summer Flowers*, but this is a larger and older book, and its French engravings are beautifully colored. A more attractive book of the kind it would be hard to find.

Bancroft's History of the United States, volume vi. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. The eight years embraced in the recent volume of Mr. Bancroft's History, being from the repeal of the Stamp Act, in 1766, to the decisive measures resolved upon in 1774 by the British Parliament against Boston, and which eventuated in American Independence, has very properly been entitled by him "The Crisis." The narrative is at once lucid, eloquent, instructive, and poetical, and studded at intervals with those bright life-pictures for which in his previous volumes he has become famous.

The Mothers of the Bible, have been made the theme of a very clever little book, by Mr. S. G. Ashton. The Rev. A. L. Stone, of Boston, enriches the volume by an eloquent introduction, wherein the duty and advantages of searching the Scriptures are delightfully set forth and powerfully urged. Though following in the wake of more pretentious volumes upon kindred topics, this book will fill an unoccupied niche, and contribute to the enjoyment of many a fireside circle. It was needed, and will be warmly welcomed. Actuated by a desire to share with others her own experience of the fullness and wealth of the Scriptures, our authoress has culled a choice bouquet of flowers from the true Garden of the Soul, and twining around them, with rare taste, the silver threads of thought, here presents them fragrant, and fresh withal, to gladden and bless many a heart and home.

Messrs J.P. Jewett & Co. have also issued, in a very attractive form, "Sketches of Places and People abroad," being the republication (with additions) of a book of travels in Europe, written by William Wells Brown, a fugitive from slavery. The author (we may also call him the subject) of this volume, was, until his twentieth year, "held to service" under circumstances familiar to the Southern States; his mind and body being alike in bondage during the best

years of his life. The narrative and sketches here given to the public evince a steady and successful "pursuit of knowledge" After difficulties, and

ful "pursuit of knowledge" After difficulties, and ten during Mr. Brown's term of service as delegate to the Peace Congress of 1849, and comprise meager notices of the many places visited, strung together on an ever-visible black thread. The style is marked by a not very modest mediocrity; but the places and persons mentioned are of intrinsic interest, aside from the vein of vanity which has woven a web of words over them. The book, however, under the circumstances, is worth buying and reading. We came near forgetting to mention that a portrait of the author darkens the portal of his book.

Martin Merrivale X His Mark, is the quaint title of a first-rate book published recently by Phillips, Sampson & Co. The author has hidden himself behind the pseudonym of "Paul Creyton," but we can assure him that his readers will not perceive the necessity for an incognito. Whatever his name may be, we must say that he has made "his mark" and deserves the thanks of the reading public for having presented to them so readable a work. It cannot fail to be popular; and we shall be surprised if this volume does not attain a circulation equal to that of the "Lamp of Lighter," to which, in some remote degree, it bears a resemblance. The plot is somewhat complicated, though not intricate; the scenes, many and varied, are interwoven effectively; the characters introduced are well drawn, and remind us forcibly of "people we have met." In fact, we have read a book lately, which so nearly approaches the style and power of Dickens. There is a freshness about the humor, a depth to the pathos, a detail in the description, an intimate acquaintance with human nature, and an originality evident throughout, which, in these days of professional book-making it is a satisfaction to meet with.

Out Doors at Idlewild; or, The Shapings of Home on the Banks of the Hudson. By N. P. Willis. [Charles Scribner.] We venture to say that the "Home Journal," with all its attractions, has had none greater during the last year and a half, than these letters, which have opened the gates of Idlewild, and offered the freedom of its walks and rides and the genial companionship of its owner. They are written in one of the pleasantest of the varied moods of the author, who, as everybody knows, has a remarkable facility for making his letters seem like talks, familiar and friendly, as if all his readers were personal friends. Nothing comes amiss to his graceful and versatile pen, which here rambles over the picturesque scenery of the Highlands, and delights in the freshness and freedom of out-door life. We are glad to learn that the kind of life has had the desired beneficial effects on the health of the invalid writer. Long may he live to enjoy his beautiful home on the Hudson!

Life in the Clearings, versus the Bush. By Mrs. Moodie. DeWitt & Davenport, publishers. This is a lively and entertaining book, although hardly the freshness of the previous work, of which it is, in one sense, the counterpart. That was a picture of a home in the wilds of Canada, with the deprivations, annoyances, and vexations it involved. This, written after an interval of twenty years, shows a more intimate acquaintance with the thriving towns and villages of the Province, where, if there is less novelty, there is also less discomfort. "Life in the Clearings" is not confined to a personal narrative; the writer introducing anecdotes, adventures, and mishaps of other persons, as well as her own experience, observations, and reflections. We infer from the opening chapter, that she desires to do away with any unpleasant impressions of Canadian life which her first volume may have made. How far she

has succeeded, our readers must judge for themselves. *The Power of the Pulpit*, by Gardner Spring, D. D., has passed to a second edition. It is addressed especially to those who are entering the Christian Ministry, and discusses with much vigor the grand object of Preaching, the scope of pulpit instruction, and other themes intimately connected with these. As the work of a venerable pastor whose experience has been so varied, and whose power has been so widely felt in the community, it is certainly deserving of an extensive circulation. M. W. Dodd is the publisher of this volume.

Dr. Cumming's Sabbath Evening Readings on the New Testament are not the least interesting of his works. The two volumes already received are running commentaries on the books of Matthew and Mark, exhibiting, with much clearness and beauty, many obscure portions of Sacred Writ, and bounding with original interpretations.

A great sensation is now being produced by that famous pre-announced anti-slavery novel, "Ida May: a Story of Things Actual and Possible." The work was issued on the 22nd Dec., on which day one of the publishers informed me they had actually sold, not simply sent off, 7,500 copies. It was amusing, dreary and rainy as was the day, to see how the book was snatched from the retail counters in this city. I had read the story beforehand, and I am free to say that I regard it as a work of great power, while it is free from the main objections which usually lie against works of the class.

Another work which is exciting considerable attention and remark is the "South-Side View of Slavery; or, Three Months at the South in 1854" by Dr. Nehemiah Adams, of this city. The public have already learned something of this work from the letters of Dr. Adams and Hon. H. A. Wise, which have been published in the daily journals. The effect of this correspondence, published without the knowledge or consent of Dr. Adams, was to prejudice the community against the book. But now we have the work itself. And what is it? Is it an apology for slavery? By no means. Nor is it a rabid ebullition of feeling against it. The writer went south the last spring, and there looked upon things with his own eyes. For the first time he saw slaves and slavery as they are in the localities he visited. He observed, reflected, reasoned, formed conclusions, and generalized; and here, in his book, we have his clear and candid mind on many important points connected with the great subject of slavery and freedom. He evidently speaks from the fullness of his heart, and he does it with a candor, moderation, and Christian simplicity worthy of all acceptance.

The "Newsboy," from the press of Mr. J. C. Derby, is pronounced a book good and true. It may be read with profit, and should awaken the sympathies of the community in behalf of those lads, in our cities, who hardly know how to obtain the means of living from day to day.

Yours as ever, N. M.

PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

In *Putnam*, for January, we are made acquainted with some of the hidden wonders of the Ocean and the Life which abounds in its depths. The question is asked, "Was Napoleon a Dictator?" but we do not perceive that it is answered. "Prof. Phantillo," is a romance of the Water Cure. "Spenseriana," embraces a sketch of the Poet's life, and a Review of Selections from Prof. Hart's book. "Hard Swearing on a Church Steeple," "The Rich Merchant of Cairo," and "Israel Potter," continued. "Negro Minstrelsy, Ancient and Modern," compares the modern Jim Crows and Zip Coons and the ancient "specimens" of Percy